

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Catherine Church, Catherine, Wilcox County, Ala.,

SEPTEMBER 21, 22 AND 23, 1900.

OFFICERS:

DANIEL J. MEADOR, Moderator.....	Myrtlewood, Ala.
JOHN E. HECKER, Clerk.....	Linden, Ala.
WILLIAM K. THOMAS, Treasurer.....	Nanafalia, Ala.

The Next Session of this Association will be held with Thomaston Baptist Church, at Thomaston, Marengo County, Ala., on

Friday Before the Fourth Sabbath in Sept. 1901.

Montgomery, Ala.

ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.

1900.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—SESSION 1901.

FRIDAY.

1. Temporary Organization.
2. Introductory Sermon—Eld. W. H. DeWitt; Eld. J. L. Tucker, alternate.
3. Enrollment of Messengers.
4. Permanent Organization.
5. Appointment of committees to report during the session—
 - On Finance.
 - On Nominations, Documents and Requests.
 - On Religious Services during the session.
6. Report on Aged and Infirm Ministers, their Wives and Children—W. V. Vice, S. P. Jackson, G. W. Barkley.
7. Report on Religious Periodicals—G. W. Webb, J. W. Buck, H. C. Rikard.
8. Report on Bible and Colportage work—J. M. Roden, J. B. Perkins, J. A. Cammack.
9. Report on Ministerial and General Education—L. C. DeWitt, W. B. Glass, W. F. Westbrook.

SATURDAY.

10. Report on Temperance—Joe Lambert, J. Q. Bailey, W. F. Ray.
11. Report on Institute work—G. L. Sutton, W. V. Vice, Coats Fluker.
12. Report on Orphanage—W. B. Crosby, A. C. Thomas, Robt Mayton.
13. Report on State Missions—W. H. DeWitt, H. Dunaway, W. F. Setzler.
14. Report on Home Missions—J. W. Sandlin, G. L. Sutton, C. W. Blunt.
15. Report on Foreign Missions—J. L. Tucker, H. C. Thomas, V. H. Caine.
16. Report on Religious State of the Churches—W. K. Thomas, C. H. Miller, W. L. Walston.

SUNDAY.

17. Report on Sabbath Schools—J. Q. Bailey, P. B. Glass, J. S. Coats.
 18. Report of Committee on Finance.
 19. Report of Committee on Nominations, Documents and Requests.
 20. Report of Treasurer.
 21. Report of Executive Committee.
 22. Appointment of Standing Committees.
 23. Appointment of Executive Committee.
 24. Reading Minutes.
 25. Adjournment.
- Meet at 9:30, adjourn at 12:30; meet at 2.30, adjourn at 5:00, Fifteen minutes at opening of each session for miscellaneous business.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Eld. J. M. Roden, Chairman: Eld. J. W. Sandlin, Eld. W. H. DeWitt,
A. R. Oxford, J. E. Hecker, D. J. Meador.

CONSTITUTION OF BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, who, upon producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats; and the members so chosen and convened, shall continue to be known by the name of THE BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. The Association shall, annually, upon convening, proceed to choose from the members present, a Moderator, to preside and keep order; and a Clerk to make correct entries and minutes of their proceedings; and in their deliberations, they shall be governed by the rules of decorum annexed to this Constitution; which, however, the Association may alter and amend as they may think proper.

ART. 3. This Association shall have no power to interfere with, or infringe upon the internal rights and gospel privileges of the churches, but shall be considered merely as an *advisory council* and convening of the churches of the union; first, to learn and make known the state of each other's affairs, and to dispense the word of God to the attending congregation. Secondly, to consult upon and dispense such information, direction and advice, touching the affairs of the kingdom, as may tend to preserve the peace and promote the happiness of the churches, and extend the furtherance of the glorious gospel of the Redeemer. Thirdly, to hold correspondence with sister Associations; and, in the whole, to strengthen and perpetuate the union and prosperity of the churches, to the edifying the body of Christ.

ART. 4. The churches shall transmit to each annual session of the Association written communications, specifying the names of messengers, the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, and deceased since the last Association; together, also, with the whole number then in fellowship.

ART. 5. Each of the churches in our union shall be entitled to send three members; and any church failing to represent herself, shall state the reason to the next session.

ART. 6. New churches may be admitted into the union by messengers, bearing letters of application; if, upon examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall make known their admission by giving the messenger the right hand in token of Christian fellowship.

ART. 7. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union, after due labor had, any church that may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the gospel.

ART. 8. The Association shall have a competent number of the Minutes of each session, to be printed, and the churches to be furnished therewith.

ART. 9. Every question sent up by a particular church must be included in her letter, with a statement that she had endeavored to reconcile it, but has failed: the Association may then take the matter under consideration; and the voice of the majority shall be an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the Minutes.

ART. 10. Questions which concern the general union and prosperity of the churches, and spread of the gospel, may be sent up by a particular church, or introduced by proper motion, and shall be taken up and decided as soon as discretion may render practicable.

ART. 11. The Association shall have a fund, to be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, or otherwise, as may gratuitously be contributed, by their messengers, and paid over to the Clerk, who shall take in charge said fund, and dispose of the same agreeable to order; and at every session make a fair and circumstantial report thereof.

ART. 12. A suitable and well-bound Association book shall be provided, in which the former constitution, etc., together with the Minutes of the previous sessions, this Constitution, Abstract and Rules, and the Minutes of this and the succeeding sessions, shall be legibly transcribed, recorded properly, paged and indexed by or under the inspection of the Clerk, who shall be allowed and receive a fair compensation for his services; and it shall also be the duty of the Clerk of this Association, and of each of the churches, to procure, if practicable, and preserve a regular file of the printed Minutes of this Association.

ART. 13. The Association shall not adjourn at any session, until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except abstruse, difficult and extraordinary matters, may be laid over.

ART. 14. The Minutes of the Association shall be read, corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

ART. 15. Amendments of this Constitution may be made at any session by a concurrence of two-thirds of the members present; but in all other cases the Association shall be governed by a majority of the members present.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. At each meeting of this Association the Moderator shall take the chair, shall call the meeting to order, shall decide questions of order subject to an appeal, shall open and close the Association with prayer, shall appoint committees when not otherwise ordered, and shall pronounce the decision of the Association.

2. The names of members shall be called each day, and invitations to seats extended to ministering brethren.

3. The members shall observe respect to officers and to each other, shall arise when addressing the Moderator, shall confine themselves to the questions, shall avoid personalities shall not speak without leave more than once until every member shall have opportunity to speak, and shall sustain that bearing to each other which becomes gentlemen and Christians.

4. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Moderator, and then shall be in possession of the Association, but may be withdrawn by the mover before amendment or decision.

5. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone; which motion shall have precedence in the order enumerated.

6. All questions, except those relating to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority. Any member voting with the majority may move for a reconsideration on the day of decision. Members may not leave the Association without permission.

7. When questions of order are not provided for in these rules, they shall be decided according to the rules and regulations governing legislative bodies generally.

8. The Association shall have power to receive into its body and fellowship such churches as apply for admission; and shall also be empowered to withdraw its fellowship from any church or body of men walking disorderly, and supposed to be unworthy the fellowship of this Association.

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—FRIDAY MORNING.

The 80th annual session of Bethel Baptist Association convened with Catherine church, Wilcox county, Alabama, on Friday, September 21st, 1900, and was called to order by the former Moderator—Hon. D. J. Meador.

Prayer by Eld. J. W. Stewart.

On motion, J. E. Hecker was made temporary Clerk.

In the absence of the appointee, Eld. A. G. Moseley, of the Home Mission work, New Orleans, preached the Introductory Sermon from the texts—"By Grace are ye saved," Ephesians 2:8; "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," Phillipians 2:12; "Now is our salyation nearer than when we first believed," Komans 13:11.

Recessed until 1:30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

Reassembled with prayer by Eld. W. V. Vice.

Upon motion, Bros. P. C. Barkley and Joe Lambert were appointed to read the church letters, and the following were enrolled as messengers:

AIWELL—D. P. Jowers, Robert Mayton, J. H. Daniels.

BETHEL—J. W. Sandlin, C. A. Floyd, C. H. Fluker.

BETHLEHEM—G. W. Barkley, C. H. Miller.

CATHERINE—G. W. Webb, L. C. DeWitt, Joe Lambert.

COUNTY LINE—W. H. England, H. C. Rikard, O. B. England.

FLATWOODS CHAPEL—R. E. Pharr, John Jackson, J. W. Brown.

LAMISON—H. Dunaway, Wm. Dunaway, G. L. Sutton.

LINDEN—P. B. Glass, J. E. Hecker, W. B. Glass.

MYRTLEWOOD—D. J. Meador, W. B. Crosby.

NANAFALIA—W. K. Thomas.

REHOBOTH—W. H. DeWitt, W. F. Ray, P. C. Chambers.

SAFFORD—W. F. Setzler, J. A. Cammack, J. M. Roden.

SHILOH—W. V. Vice, S. P. Jackson, Ware Pippinhorst.

THOMASTON—J. W. Buck, John Winegar, J. O. Claney.

On motion the temporary officers were made permanent.

Bro. J. F. Grimes, of Myrtlewood church, through the Moderator, presented the Association with a neat gavel, to whom the thanks of the Association were tendered.

The Moderator announced the following committees to report during the session:

ON FINANCE—P. B. Glass, J. B. Perkins, H. C. Rikard.

ON RELIGIOUS SERVICES—Eld. G. W. Webb and Deacons of Catherine church

ON NOMINATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS—W. K. Thomas, J. O. Claney, W. F. Setzler.

On motion the following Order of Business was adopted:

FRIDAY.

1. Temporary organization.
2. Introductory sermon.
3. Reading letters.
4. Permanent organization.
5. Appointment of committees to report during the session—

On finance.

On nominations, documents and requests.

On religious services during the session.

6. Report on religious state of the churches.
7. Report on aged and infirm ministers.
8. Report on religious periodicals.
9. Report on The Orphanage.

SATURDAY.

10. Report on Bible and colportage work.
11. Report on State Missions.
12. Report on Home Missions.
13. Report on Foreign Missions.
14. Report on Temperance.
15. Report on Institute work

SUNDAY.

16. Report on Ministerial and General Education.
17. Report on Sabbath Schools.
18. Report of Committee on Finance.
19. Report of Executive Committee.
20. Report of Committee on Nominations, Documents and Requests.
21. Report of Treasurer.
22. Appointment of Standing Committees.
23. Appointment of Executive Committee.
24. Reading Minutes.
25. Adjournment.

Eld. J. W. Stewart, representing the Orphanage, Eld. A. G. Moseley, of the Home Mission work, New Orleans, and Bro. W. B. Jackson, of South Bethel, were welcomed in their respective capacities.

The Moderator announced the following committee to report on Religious State of the Churches, in the absence of the regular appointees:

W. H. DeWitt, G. L. Sutton, S. P. Jackson.

Report on the Orphanage was read and discussed by Elds. J. W. Stewart and J. W. Sandlin. A collection of \$14.25 was taken, after which the report was adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

Our Orphan's Home was temporarily located at Evergreen, in Jan. 1893, and on March 10, following, the first children were received under its protecting care. By Nov. of that year, we had received 22 children, and the little rented dilapidated house was more than full, and a negro cabin in the corner of the yard had to be fitted up to hold the overflow of children.

The Trustees, after having duly considered all possible places for a permanent location, decided to let it remain permanently in Evergreen, and purchased an old homestead consisting of 80 acres of land, with a brick residence with ten rooms and three tenant houses. This property was admirably located. The purchase price was \$5,000.00 in three installments, with interest on the deferred payments. The amount actually paid was \$5,400.33. This debt was duly paid, and the property was improved, changed, and another building added, and all debts for improvements were paid. No encumbrance has ever been on the Home.

About 80 acres of this land is in farm, 30 in pasture, and 20 in woods. The boys are taught to do farm work, while the girls do various kinds of house-work, from scrubbing in the kitchen to the making of a dress.

The family life of the children is about like that of any well regulated family. There are no written rules to govern the children, but they are taught to observe one rule that contains all others, viz: "Do right." While the physical and industrial life of the children are looked after carefully, their spiritual life is not neglected. Many of them have been baptized. All that are large enough attend Sunday School and church, and the regular family worship is held every evening.

The 136 children that have been received since the Home was started came from 80 counties, as follows: Autauga 2, Barbour 8, Bibb 2, Bullock 1, Butler 3, Chambers 1, Conecuh 2, Covington 8, Dallas 4, Elmore 4, Escambia 11, Hale 3, Henry 4, Jackson 1, Jefferson 15, Lamar 1, Lee 10, Limestone 1, Marengo 4, Mobile 2, Monroe 4, Montgomery 8, Morgan 8, Pike 2, Russell 4, Shelby 1, Talladega 10, Tallapoosa 2, Tuscaloosa 9, and Walker 6. Of these, 2 boys and 4 girls have died; 2 boys have been apprenticed, 2 boys and 1 girl have been irregularly discharged; 13 boys and 18 girls have been returned to their people, and 15 boys and 14 girls have been adopted, making 34 boys and 37 girls that have gone out from us, leaving 29 boys and 36 girls in the Home—136 received, 71 gone out, 65 here. Our great, constant need is money or food for the regular support of these children, and our special urgent need is another building so that we could take proper care of our children when they are sick. All our rooms are regularly occupied by the family, and when we have sick children it is impracticable to take proper care of them, or to isolate them in case of contagious diseases. "I was sick and ye visited me."

It takes about \$10.00 a day for the regular support of these children. We have no income except the free-will offerings of the friends of the friends of our work.

Who will dare to say these defenseless children should not be cared for? Why are there still 500 Baptist preachers in Alabama who, so far as is known, have never shown the least interest in this work? Why are there at least 1200 churches that have not yet been heard from?

Your committee respectfully urge that all pastors bring the need of this work before their people, both for the regular support of the work, and also to help in any special work necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Jno. E. HECKER, Chairman.

Upon motion W. K. Thomas was elected Treasurer of the Association.

The report on Religious State of the Churches was read by Eld. W. H. DeWitt, and after being discussed by Eld. G. L. Sutton and Bros. J. B. Perkins and W. B. Jackson, was adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

As to religion, we have plenty, but Christianity is at a low ebb. This is evident from the unhealthy disciplinary condition of our churches. I know there are more than one Baptist in this Association who ought to have been excluded during the past year. Here and there, there are earnest workers who are carrying the burdens of our cause. What is to be the final outcome with these contending forces? Your committee prays that the time will soon come when religion will be dislodged by Christianity.

W. H. DeWITT, Chairman.

The committee on Religious Services announced preaching by Eld. J. W. Sandlin in this church to-night.

The committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, their Wives and Children, through its chairman, Eld. W. V. Vice, made the following report, which, on motion, was adopted:

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN.

Your committee begs leave to report if there is any such in this Association it is not aware of the fact. If there is any such we are in duty bound to care for them. We are to love them for their very work's sake. They are to bear fruit even in old age, and we ought to take care of them in their second childhood.

W. V. Vice, Chairman.

At 8 P. M., Eld. J. W. Sandlin preached a strong sermon from the text: "Final Opportunity Lost," Matt. 21:43; after which Eld. A. G. Moseley laid before the Association his work in New Orleans, and the following pledges, to be paid by November 1st, were made to assist him in his work:

Bethel \$10.00; Catherine \$15.00; County Line \$2.50; Hills \$15.00; Lamison \$5.00; Linden \$10.00; Myrtlewood \$10.00; Nanafalia \$10.00; Safford \$40.00; Judson \$2.50; Thomaston \$5.00; T. H. Kimbrough \$2.50; cash collection \$2.05—Total \$129.55.

The regular appointees being absent, the Moderator appointed the following committees to report, as follows:

HOME MISSIONS—H. C. Thomas, J. O. Clancey, G. L. Sutton.

INSTITUTE WORK—J. W. Sandlin, L. C. DeWitt, G. L. Sutton.

BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK—W. B. Crosby, Coats Fluker, H. Dunaway.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION—J. W. Sandlin, P. B. Glass, W. J. Dunaway.

The Association then adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Assembled with prayer by Eld. G. S. Anderson.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Upon motion a committee of three, with the Moderator as chairman, was raised to draft fitting resolutions to the memory of our lamented brother, Eld. John Thomas Caine, and tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, was set apart as a special hour

for the consideration of their report. The Moderator appointed on said committee the following brethren: Elds. J. M. Roden and G. L. Sutton.

The following brethren were welcomed in their respective capacities: Eld. W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of the State Mission Board; Eld. G. S. Anderson, of the Institute Board; Col. J. T. Murfee, of the Marion Military Institute, and Eld. J. A. Howard, of the Alabama Baptist.

On motion the Treasurer was directed to pay out of any money coming into his hands, not otherwise appropriated, an amount sufficient to make the sum of \$40.00 to cancel the Sweet Water church debt whenever said church shall raise the sum of \$50.00.

The report on Bible and Colportage Work was, on motion, laid over until to-morrow morning.

On motion, Eld. J. M. Roden, Bro. W. B. Crosby and Eld. J. W. Sandlin, were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions concerning the departure of our brother, Eld. J. J. Pipkin, who will shortly sever his connection with this body by moving to Texas.

The Reports on Foreign, State and Home Missions were read, and after being discussed by Elus. W. B. Crumpton, J. M. Roden, W. H. DeWitt and J. W. Sandlin, were adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Foreign missions is the all-absorbing theme of the day. Active Christianity striving to advance, and passive church membership, either through ignorance of facts or downright opposition to the great commission to give the Gospel to the world, opposing. The devil has focalized his forces on mission work within the last twelve months. Such opposition has always been God's steel to whet the energies of His children. The cry has been for years, we were doing nothing in mission fields; but the recent troubles in China has developed the fact that we were building better than we knew. The natives have stood the test in a way that has not been surpassed since the closing scenes of the Apostolic days.

Soldiers of the cross, Jesus beckons on; be not wanting. Remember active Christianity holds on with a faith that is omnipotent, because it is the faith of the Son of God.

The board is at work in six fields, with about one hundred missionaries besides 133 native helpers: churches 113, out stations 155, baptisms 1341, membership 6,537, day schools 43, scholars 1,278, Sunday School scholars 2,408. Receipts Foreign Board, \$140,102.00; contributed from native churches \$7,094.00.

W. H. DEWITT,
Chair an,

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The mission work in Alabama is being carried on largely under the direction of the State Board of Missions, located at Montgomery, W. B. Crump-

ton, Corresponding Secretary. Some work is being done by Associations in their own bounds, the amounts being supplemented by the State Board. The Board has in its employ this year about forty laborers. More than one hundred ought to be in the field, but the Board has not been entrusted with funds sufficient to meet this demand. It is the purpose of the Board to undertake more work in the way of Bible distribution and the printing of tracts. A special fund is being asked for this purpose, with good prospect of success.

We recommend that the amount suggested by the State Board to this Association for missions, be accepted and apportioned to the churches, and that we urge the use of the pledge card and envelope system suggested by the State Board for monthly collections.

W. V. VICE,
Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission work should be the all-absorbing question of the day, for the following reasons: 1st. It touches the very borders of our own beautiful and beloved State, and therefore benefits our own children. 2d. Activity in the Home Mission work means activity in the Foreign Mission work. The statistics of the year just closed show an increase over last year's work, which goes to show that the mighty host of Baptists—God's own and only peculiar and chosen people—are on the upward march, and that the spiritual condition of the churches is on the rise. This should encourage the loyal Baptists of Bethel Association and give them renewed energy for the year 1901. And while we are thankful to God for the grand work done this year, we humbly beg and pray the Baptists of Bethel Association to lay hold of this grand work with such determination that what shall be done in 1901 in the Home field may outshine the work of all preceding years in the history of this grand old Association.

Humbly submitted,

G. L. SUTTON,
Chairman

The report on Temperance was read and discussed by Elds. G. W. Webb, L. C. DeWitt and J. W. Sandlin and Bro. Joe Lambert.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the Association recessed until 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled with prayer by Eld. G. L. Sutton.

Consideration of the Temperance report was resumed. Eld. J. M. Roden in the chair, Moderator Meador addressed the body on the report. Eld. G. W. Webb also again spoke to the subject. On motion, speeches were limited to five minutes. After further discussion, on motion, the report was recommitted.

The report on Institute Work was read by Eld. G. L. Sutton and fully discussed by Eld. G. S. Anderson, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON INSTITUTE WORK.

The Institute work is in its infancy, but the noble purpose for which it was created—that of educating the country minister now in the field, who

has not, neither can otherwise get theological training—commends itself to our Baptist people. There was an Institute held at Pine Hill in June last with ten or twelve ministers present, and eternity alone will reveal the good that was done. All present went home feeling they had been greatly blessed. We suggest that one or more be held within or near the bounds of our Association during the year 1901, and that all our ministers be urgently requested to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. SANDLIN,
Chairman.

The committee to whom was recommitted the report on Temperance read its report, and after discussion the same was adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee, to whom was recommitted the report on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following: It is the duty of Christians to be temperate in all things. Your committee believe that even the moderate use of vinous or spirituous liquors is subversive of true, vital Godliness in the soul, and recommend to the churches constituting this body that they use every honorable effort in their power for its final overthrow and destruction.

W. B. JACKSON,
W. F. SETZLER,
G. W. WEBB,
Committee.

Upon motion the vote by which the report on Bible and Colportage work was laid over until tomorrow morning, was reconsidered, and a motion presented that said report be taken up and disposed of at a session to be held on to-night.

Report on Religious Periodicals was read by Bro. W. K. Thomas, and consideration of said report was deferred until the night session.

Recessed until 7:30 P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

Reassembled with prayer by Eld. G. W. Webb.

Consideration of the report on Religious Periodicals was then taken up. Eld. L. C. DeWitt, the Colporteur of the Association, addressed the body, after which he gave an itemized statement of his year's work. The report of the Executive Committee was read by Chairman Roden, as was also the report on Bible and Colportage work. The three reports were then collectively discussed by Elds. J. M. Roden, W. H. DeWitt, G. L. Sutton and W. B. Crumpton and Bro. W. B. Crosby, and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS.

The circulation of our State paper—The Alabama Baptist; our young peoples' organ—The Union, published in Birmingham; The Sermonizer, published at Auburn, and the Foreign Mission Journal and Home Field, should be largely increased. Your committee deem this one of the great agencies to increase the interest and welfare of our denominational work throughout our Association and State. If the reports from the churches are correct, we are sadly lacking in information as to enterprises fostered by our Baptist hosts. We suggest that pastors and active laymen take hold of this work, and not only increase the circulation of these papers, but distribute among our people generally the many good tracts that are offered by our boards—the State, Foreign, Home and Sunday School—for gratuitous distribution.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. THOMAS,
Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The committee was instructed to employ a colporteur for this Association. It met the last of October and elected Eld. E. H. Perry. He worked during the month of November and most of the month of December; he then resigned. He did a good work in selling books. The committee then elected Eld. L. C. DeWitt, and he has done an excellent work.

The following is the financial exhibit:

Received from churches and sale of books.....	\$356 54
Value of books on hand.....	67 10

Total	\$423 64
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By amount paid colporteur and for books.....	360 47
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Balance on hand in books	\$ 63 17
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Respectfully submitted,
J. M. RODEX,
Chairman Executive Committee.

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

We, your committee on Colportage, beg to submit the following report: We believe that there is no work in which the Bethel Association is engaged that is of more vital importance than the Bible and Colportage work. It is a work that can reach remote and destitute places as no other work can. Through this work we can go out into the by-ways and dark corners within our borders and reach those who are not in reach of a Sunday School and church services. It is by this work that we can lay a sure foundation upon which we can build what may be in the future some of our strongest and most active churches.

Verily the work of a colporteur is an important one. First, the blade, which is the colporteur's work, talking Christ in the homes, distributing Bibles and Testaments and religious literature of every kind. Then the ear—the Sunday Schools and prayer meetings, resulting from the foundational work. After that, the full corn in the ear—the well established and almost without exception, the most active, sacrificing churches we have.

And not only in destitute places do we believe there is work to do, but throughout the entire Association is his work needed. This is an age of enlightenment, of advancement. There is seemingly a growing demand, especially on the part of the boys and girls, the young men and women of our country, for something to read. They are going to have it; they ought to have it. Brethren, let us meet this demand with good, religious, Baptist literature to offset the obscene, trashy stuff, and especially the false doctrines scattered throughout this land.

It is with regret that we learn that Bro. L. C. DeWitt will resign his work in this capacity, for we believe he has made a fine showing considering the short time he has been in the work and the difficulties under which he had to labor; and we do earnestly hope and pray that our Executive Committee may think proper, and be able to find a worthy successor to carry the work on, and that the churches may rally to him, that the work may be the more effectual.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. Crosby,
Chairman.

On motion the Association resolved to continue the Colportage work and to request the State Mission Board to give it \$100.00. The following pledges were then made to continue the work:

Bethel \$10.00, Catherine \$10.00, County Line \$5.00, Flatwoods Chapel \$2.50, Lamison \$5.00, Linden \$5.00, Myrtlewood \$5.00, Nanafalia \$10.00, Rehoboth \$2.50, Safford \$40.00, Shiloh \$2.50, Thomaston \$10.00, Friendship \$2.50, Hills \$20.00, Union Grove \$2.50, D. J. Meador \$20.00, J. M. Roden \$10.00, W. F. Perkins \$10.00, W. F. Setzler \$10.00, G. L. Sutton \$5.00, J. W. Sandlin \$5.00, H. C. Rikard \$2.50—Total \$200.00.

The following preamble and resolutions, offered by the committee appointed to draft resolutions in reference to Eld. J. J. Pipkin, were unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, Elder J. J. Pipkin, who has been actively engaged in the pastoral work in the Bethel Association for five or more years, during which time he has had charge of some of the most important churches in our Association, in which work he has proven himself a most zealous, consecrated, untiring and successful worker in the Lord's vineyard;

"AND WHEREAS, he has decided to sever his connection with us, having determined to move to our sister State—Texas;

"AND WHEREAS, Bro. Pipkin has, by his Godly walk, by his Christian life, by his untiring energies, by his earnest, successful preaching, so endeared himself to us; therefore—

"*Be it Resolved*, 1st. That we, the Bethel Baptist Association in session assembled, while we deeply regret that our relationship with him shall be severed, do most heartily recommend him to the Baptist brotherhood of our sister State, or wherever he may go, as a faithful, fearless minister of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"*Resolved*, 2d. That our sympathies and our prayers shall follow him to his new field of labor.

"*Resolved*, 3d. That this preamble and resolutions be inscribed in the minutes of our Association."

The following pledges to make up the balance due on the Institute work were made:

Bethel \$5.00, Catherine \$1.00, Friendship \$1.00, Hills \$5.00, Judson \$1.00, Myrtlewood \$5.00, Nanafalia \$3.00, Rehoboth \$2.00, Safford \$10.00, Shiloh \$2.50, Thomaston \$2.50, Union Grove \$1.00—Total \$39.00.

The Association then adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Reassembled with prayer by Eld. W. H. DeWitt.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The Committee on resolutions to the memory of Eld. J. T. Caine reported as follows:

ELDER J. T. CAINE.

Our beloved brother, Elder John Thomas Caine, was born in Walker county, Ala., Sept. 15, 1831, and died at his home, near Safford Station, Dallas county, March 12, 1900. In his youth he attended Salem Academy, at old Elyton, now a part of Birmingham, and for a while was a teacher in that noted school. He afterwards taught school at Harpersville, Providence, and for a number of years near his home. He was licensed to preach by Canaan church in 1852, and ordained by Mt. Moriah church in 1854; thus he had been in the Baptist ministry for nearly forty-five years. Entering Howard College in 1857, he graduated in 1860 with the degree of A. B. For many years he was pastor of churches in this section, and for the last five years was Moderator of Bethel Association. Shortly after graduating he married Miss D. A. Holmes, with whom he lived happily until his death. They first met while he was a student at the Howard and she at the Judson Institute. Eight children were born to them, seven of whom survive him. His devotion to his wife and children was only exceeded by his devotion to God; and no man had a more loving wife or more devoted children than he. Only his family, the members of Safford church, and the churches of Bethel Association, know what a loss God's cause has sustained—for those who knew him best loved him most. Highly intellectual, thoroughly educated, scholarly to an unusual degree; an authority on theological as well as secular matters, yet he was as humble as a little child. He gave largely to missions and education. Howard College and the Judson Institute were very near his heart, and in these schools he educated his children. To his pastor he was a tower of strength—a friend true and tried. It is safe to say that no one was so greatly beloved among the churches of Bethel Association as he. One of the noblest spirits of earth has gone home to God.

After feeling remarks by Elds. J. M. Roden, G. L. Sutton and W. B. Crumpton and Bro. J. B. Perkins, the memorial was adopted and a page of the minutes set apart to his memory.

The report on Ministerial and General Education was read and discussed by Elds. J. W. Sandlin, J. M. Roden and W. H. DeWitt, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION

Your committee submit the following report:

Comparatively speaking, there is a great wave of enthusiasm on the subject of *general education* sweeping over our country. No profession or trade but is represented in the various schools which necessity, the mother of invention, has erected. Farmers, mechanics everybody is getting an education. Shall the ministry be left behind? Is the education of the heralds of the cross of less importance than that of other professions? Is the price of souls of less value than successful farming? Shall we send our boys to Auburn that they may learn scientific agriculture, and neglect the education of our young ministry, who are to preach the Gospel to them? We must educate the ministry if we hope to reach the leading men of other professions, as well as the uneducated.

We recommend Howard College, at East Lake; the Judson Institute at Marion, and the Central Female College at Tuscaloosa.

Your committee is glad to report that our beneficiary at Howard College is making a fine record.

We also recommend our Bro. L. C. DeWitt as a beneficiary.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. SANDLIN,

Chairman.

On motion the churches were directed to send the money pledged for Ministerial Education to the Executive Committee, who shall divide the same between the beneficiaries.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and Eld. W. B. Crumpton preached the Missionary sermon from the text: "Ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance," Psalms 2:8; after which a collection of \$14.10 was taken.

Report of committee on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted without discussion, as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

All recognize the usefulness and beneficial influences of the Sabbath School work, and we urge upon the churches of this Association the great importance of engaging more actively in it. In 1899 seventeen churches reported to this body a membership of about 1,050. Only fourteen of these reported Sabbath Schools, with a total membership of about 800. Up to this time we have twelve churches reported, aggregating a membership of about 900; also twelve Sunday Schools, aggregating a total of about 300.

Your committee would respectfully urge upon our Sunday Schools the use of the Southern Baptist Convention literature, published at Nashville, Tenn.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. JACKSON, Chairman.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Finance Committee in account with Bethel Baptist Association:

DR.		
State Missions, cash.....	\$ 28 27	Vouchers.....\$ 93 74
Home Missions, cash.....	8 50	Vouchers..... 28 97
Foreign Missions, cash.....	11 91	Vouchers..... 28 97
Church Buildings, cash.....		Vouchers..... 85 00
Associational Purposes, cash.....	15 05	
Bible and Colportage, cash.....	9 55	Vouchers..... 81 21
Ministerial Education, cash.....	27 40	Vouchers..... 23 95
Institute Work, cash.....	11 26	Vouchers..... 10 00
Aged and Infirm Ministers, cash.....	1 00	
Orphan's Home, cash.....	7 55	Vouchers..... 75 29
Minutes, cash.....	21 70	
Total cash.....	\$142 19	Total vouchers. . \$427 06

CR.

By vouchers.....\$427 06 By cash paid treasurer \$142 19

Total.....\$569 25

Respectfully submitted,

P. B. GLASS,

Chairman.

On motion the Treasurer was directed to pay to Bro. P. C. Barkley any money in his hands for Ministerial Education.

The committee on Nominations, Documents and Requests made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Thomaston church, beginning at 10 A. M. on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1901.

That Eld. W. H. DeWitt preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. J. Lee Tucker, alternate; that Eld. J. M. Roden preach the Doctrinal Sermon, Eld. J. R. G. White, alternate; that Eld. J. M. Roden represent us in the Southern Baptist Convention, Eld. W. H. DeWitt, alternate; and we recommend that volunteers be called for to represent us in the Baptist State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. THOMAS, Chairman.

The following Bros. volunteered as messengers to the State Convention: J. W. Sandlin, G. L. Sutton, J. M. Roden, W. H. DeWitt, D. J. Meador, P. B. Glass, J. W. Buck, W. F. Setzler, J. E. Hecker, W. K. Thomas.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. K. Thomas, Treasurer, in account with Bethel Association:

DR.

Sept. 1899. Received of Finance Committee.....	\$104 56
Collection on Sunday	25 11
Total	\$129 67

CR.

Paid W. B. Crumpton, Home and Foreign Missions.....	\$42 32
Paid W. H. DeWitt, State Missions	14 10
Paid G. S. Anderson, Institute Board	27 11
Paid T. C. Barkley, Ministerial Education	10 10
Paid J. W. Stewart, Orphanage	5 95
Paid Mrs. Daniels, Aged and Infirm Ministers	1 56
Paid L. Matkin, Minutes.....	28 53—\$129 67

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. THOMAS,

Treasurer.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees to report at the next session of the Bethel Association:

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN—W. V. Vice, S. P. Jackson, G. W. Barkley.

RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS—G. W. Webb, J. W. Buck, H. C. Rikard.

BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK—J. M. Roden, J. B. Perkins, J. A. Cammack.

MINISTERIAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION—L. C. DeWitt, W. B. Glass, W. F. Westbrook.

TEMPERANCE—Joe Lambert, J. Q. Bailey, W. F. Ray.

INSTITUTE WORK—G. L. Sutton, W. V. Vice, Coats Fluker.

ORPHANAGE—W. B. Crosby, A. C. Thomas, Robert Mayton.

STATE MISSIONS—W. H. DeWitt, H. Dunaway, W. F. Setzler.

HOME MISSIONS—J. W. Sandlin, G. L. Sutton, C. W. Blunt.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—J. L. Tucker, H. C. Thomas, V. H. Caine.

RELIGIOUS STATE OF THE CHURCHES—W. K. Thomas, C. H. Miller, W. L. Walston.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—J. Q. Bailey, P. B. Glass, J. S. Coats.

The Moderator named the following Executive Committee:

J. M. Roden, J. W. Sandlin, W. H. DeWitt, A. R. Oxford and J. E. Hecker, and on motion the Moderator was added to the committee.

The committee on Apportionment reported as follows:

CHURCHES.	Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Orphanage.	Colportage
Aimwell.....	\$ 15 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 10 00	\$ 5 00
Bethel	30 00	10 00	10 00	10 00
Bethlehem.....	20 00	10 00	5 00	5 00
Beaver Creek.....	10 00	2 50	2 50	2 50
Catherine.....	15 00	5 00	5 00	10 00
Canaan.....	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 00
County Line.....	10 00	2 50	2 50	5 00
Flatwoods Chapel.....	10 00	2 00	5 00	2 50
Friendship.....	7 50	2 00	5 00	3 00
Hills.....	35 00	10 00	10 00	20 00
Judson.....	10 00	2 50	2 50	5 00
Lamison.....	20 00	5 00	5 00	5 00
Linden.....	23 00	2 00	10 00	5 00
Myrtlewood.....	30 00	2 50	5 00	5 00
Mt. Pleasant.....	30 00	10 00	10 00	5 00
Nanafalia.....	35 00	10 00	10 00	5 00
Rehoboth.....	15 00	3 00	5 00	2 50
Safford.....	70 00	20 00	20 00	40 00
Shiloh.....	15 00	2 50	5 00	2 50
Thomaston.....	30 00	10 00	10 00	10 00
Union Grove.....	6 00	2 00	3 00	2 50
Vincent.....	5 00	2 00	3 00	2 00
Total.....	\$ 443 50	\$ 121 50	\$ 144 50	\$ 158 50

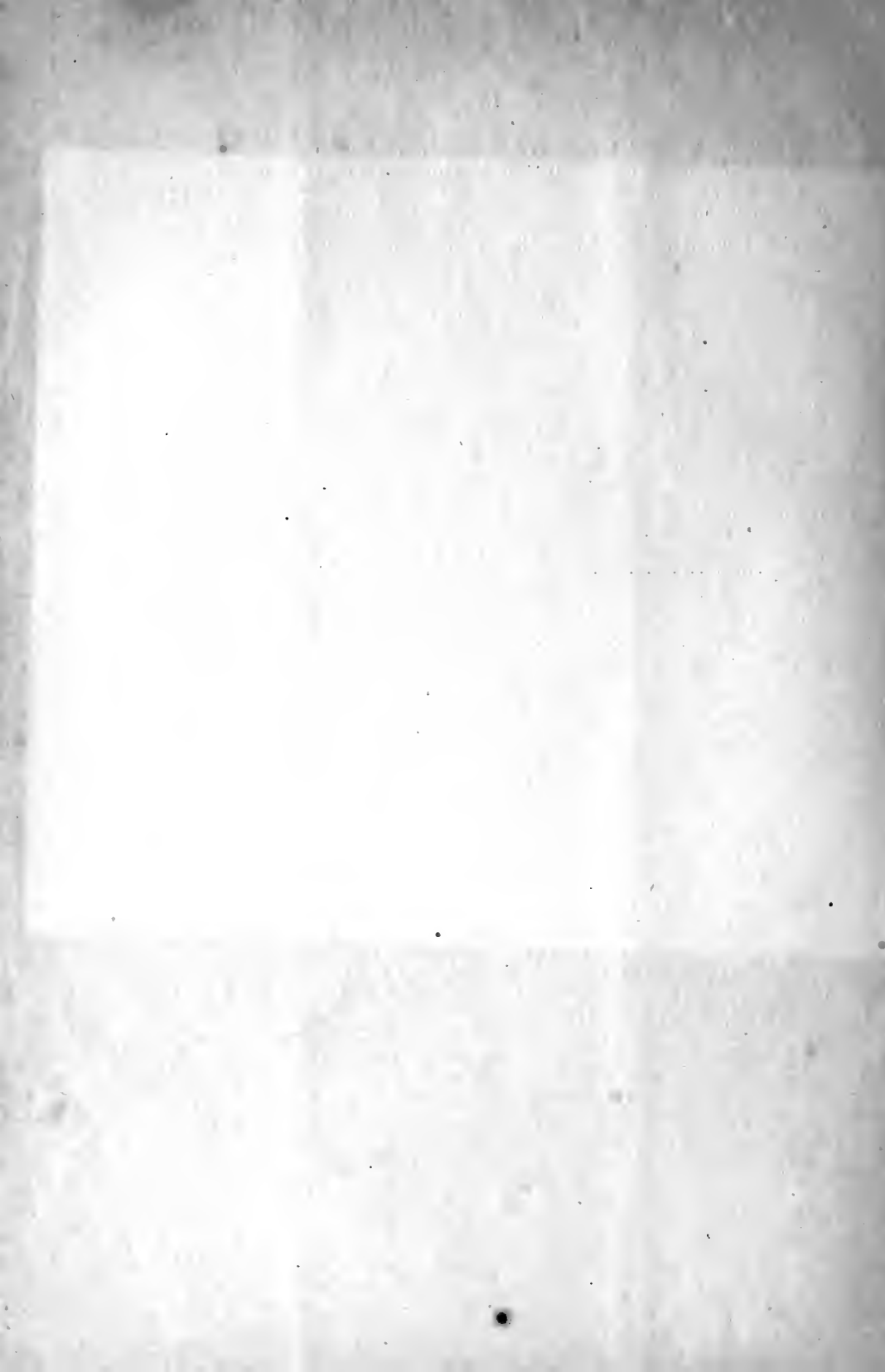
The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to Catherine Church and the citizens of this community for their kind and hospitable entertainment during its session.

The Moderator then declared the Association adjourned to meet with Thomaston church, at Thomaston, in Marengo county, at 10 A. M., on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1901.

D. J. MEADOR, Moderator.

JOHN E. HECKER, Clerk.



FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF BETHEL ASSOCIATION FOR 1900.

CHURCHES.	MISSIONS.										EDUCATION.				Aged and Infirm Ministers	Orphan's Home.	Minutes.	Total.	
	State.		Home.		Foreign.		Church Buildings. Not at Home	Associational	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial		Institute work.							
	Cash	V'chr	Cash	Vc'hr	Cash	Vouch				V'chr	Cash	Cash	Vouchr	Cash					Vouch
Aimwell.....	\$ 2 50				\$ 2 50				\$ 1 00	\$ 5 00			\$ 1 33			\$2 50		\$ 2 50	\$ 17 33
Bethel.....	3 91	\$27 98		\$ 5 05	4 50					2 90	\$ 5 00							2 00	51 34
Bethlehem.....	1 00										2 00					1 05		50	4 55
Beaver Creek.....		3 25	\$ 2 00	2 75	85	\$ 1 63				5 00	2 00	\$ 2 00				2 00	\$ 1 65	1 00	24 13
Catherine.....		4 42		2 29		5 93				7 70	1 63	1 95	2 43				14 73	2 00	43 08
County Line...		5 91		1 55		2 65			50	2 15			1 00					50	14 26
Flatwoods Chapel...			1 00							70									1 70
*Friendship.....																			
Hills.....		5 00			56				1 00									1 00	7 56
Judson.....		2 05															1 41	1 00	4 46
Lamison.....	2 00	2 05	1 00		1 00			\$ 2 00	3 00	2 00	4 77		2 00				10 00	1 50	31 32
Linden.....	16 36			3 07		3 07											11 00	1 50	35 00
Myrtlewood.....		5 00						13 05		5 00							5 00	1 00	29 05
*Mt. Pleasant.....																			
Nanafalia.....		9 35	1 00	2 50	1 00	2 50				9 00	10 00		3 00		1 00		20 00	2 00	61 35
Rehoboth.....	2 50	1 97	1 00		1 50	1 36			4 05		2 00		1 50			2 00		1 00	18 88
Safford.....		25 00		10 00		10 00	\$85 00			40 00		20 00		\$ 10 00			11 50	2 00	213 50
Shiloh.....		1 76		1 76		1 76				1 76								70	7 74
Thomaston.....			2 50															1 50	4 00
*Union Grove.....																			
*Vincent.....																			
Total.....	\$28 27	\$93 74	\$ 8 50	\$28 97	\$11 91	\$ 28 90	\$85 00	\$15 05	\$ 9 55	\$ 81 21	\$ 27 40	\$ 23 95	\$11 26	\$ 10 00	\$ 1 00	\$7 55	\$ 75 29	\$21 70	\$569 25

Collections at Association.....For Missions \$14 10.....For Orphanage \$14 25.

*No Letter.

STATISTICS OF BETHEL ASSOCIATION FOR 1900.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	Membership last year.	Increase				Decrease.				Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.			Preaching Sabbaths.
					Baptised.	By Letter.	Voucher.	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Erased.	Deaths.		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME AND P. O. ADDRESS.	
Aimwell	Marengo	E. H. Perry	J. L. Mayton, Aimwell	157	14	3		1	6	4		4	171	9	85	W. H. Mayton, Aimwell	4
Bethel	Marengo	J. W. Sandlin	C. H. Fluker, McKinley	58	8	2			5			1	62	4	35	J. B. Perkins, McKinley	1
Bethlehem	Marengo	J. R. G. White	G. W. Barkley, Octagon	67	6	1			1		8	1	64	4	25	.....	4
*Beaver Creek																	
Catherine	Wilcox	W. A. Parker	K. W. Arrington, Catherine	76	1	5			1				81	5	15	L. C. DeWitt, Catherine	
County Line	Wilcox	C. H. Morgan	W. T. Reaves, Arlington	24						1			23	6	35	H. C. Rikard, Arlington	4
Flatwoods Chapel	Marengo	W. V. Vice	J. W. Brown, Thomaston	113		9		3					125			.....	1
*Friendship																	
Hills																	1
Judson	Marengo	G. L. Sutton	Warren Etheridge, Sweet Water	39		3			1	2			39			.....	4
Lamison	Wilcox	G. L. Sutton	E. L. Arnold, Lamison	21	22	25				1		1	66	6	50	H. Dunaway, Lamison	2
Linden	Marengo	J. R. G. White	Lamar Matkin, Linden	45		2			2				45	4	22	J. E. Hecker, Linden	1
Myrtlewood	Marengo	J. J. Pipkin	W. B. Crosby, Myrtlewood	23	1	3				1			26	6	15	W. B. Crosby, Myrtlewood	3
*Mt. Pleasant																	2
Nanafalia	Marengo	J. J. Pipkin	A. G. Westbrook, Nanafalia	127		3						3	127	5	35	J. Q. Bailey, Nanafalia	1 & 3
Rehoboth	Wilcox	W. H. DeWitt	W. F. Ray, Rehoboth	31						1			30			.....	1
Safford	Dallas	J. M. Roden	J. M. Thomas, Safford	78	1	5			4	1	9	3	67	5	50	L. S. Stroud, Safford	2 & 4
Shiloh	Marengo	W. H. DeWitt	O. P. Tueker, Wayne	136	5				4				137	4	24	S. P. Jackson, Shiloh	
Thomaston	Marengo	J. W. Sandlin	Ed. Euck, Thomaston	56	5							1	60	4	30	J. W. Buck, Thomaston	
*Union Grove																	
*Vincent																	
Totals				1051	63	61			4	24	11	17	14	1123	62	421	.....

*No letter.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS WITH MEMBERSHIP IN BETHEL
ASSOCIATION.

NAME.	POSTOFFICE.	NO OF CHURCHES PASTOR OF.
J. W. Sandlin.....	McKinley, Ala	2.....
G. W. Webb.....	Catherine, Ala.....	.....
L. C. DeWitt	Catherine, Ala.....	.....
J. E. White.....	Sweet Water, Ala.....	.....
G. L. Sutton.....	Lamison, Ala.....	2.....
J. R. G. White	Sweet Water, Ala.....	2.....
J. J. Pipkin.....	Nanafalia, Ala.....	2.....
J. Lee Tucker	Nanafalia, Ala.....	.....
W. H. DeWitt....	Gastonburg, Ala	2.....
W. V. Vice.....	Shiloh, Ala.....	1.....

